DECLASSIFIED

WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 17, 1954

No advance in the way of a softening of Russian policy on Germany and Austria seems to have been made in Berlin. The Conference will terminate on Thursday of this week. However, there is still time for Molotov to make a last-minute surprise move on Asian or European affairs. At one point early in the proceedings Foster referred to Georges Bidault as another Abraham Lincoln. The correspondents have been having a good deal of fun and have now denominated the French Foreign Minister as "Honest Georges Bidault - the hair-splitter."

Connie Egan came to see me this morning. He has assumed his duties at the Talleyrand. Egan and I appear to be in complete accord about U. S. propaganda in favor of European unity. I consider most of it a complete waste of money and effort. If badly conducted, it harms the very purpose it is expected to serve. Even if well managed, it could never have the same effect as would similar efforts emanating from indigenous sources. Moreover, I believe [illegible] the subsidization of various groups sponsoring European unity - though most of them, if not all, are fervent crusaders - has been done indiscriminately and has entailed expenditures which cannot in retrospect be justified as having achieved provable results. It seems to me the best service we can perform in this field is to keep the worthwhile organizations alive in cases where they desperately need outside help and then to assist on a spot basis when a real emergency arises. With a sophisticated people like the French, who are intellectually so alert, the value of foreign propaganda has been vastly overemphasized. In fact, this observation applies not only to activities in my particular field but to all the U. S. Government's information program in France and, I daresay, to its operations in other Western European countries.

I went over to see Margaret Biddle at 2:30. Many of the French political leaders, especially Pleven and Pinay, talk to her with great frankness. She is

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strongly of the opinion that, with Dillon still absent — he is not expected to return before March, which will mean that he will have been absent for almost four months — the U. S. Embassy does not exercise any real influence in connection with EDC ratification. She thinks I should arrange, once the Government has decided on its procedure in this matter, to talk privately with the various leaders. I told her of the circumstances which had prevented my doing so to date in other than a casual way and the policy in Washington upon which this was based. However, I said that, because of the changed situation, I would give the matter further thought.

Bob Thayer brought Jim Hunt in to see me. Thayer's resignation was effective on the first of February, and Hunt is taking over his functions.

Ed Murrow telephoned me this afternoon. Unfortunately, his visit is a [redacted] short one and we shall not be able to meet, for which I am [redacted] sorry.

Ridge Knight told me tonight of his [redacted] interesting conversation this afternoon with Vidal, of Laniel's Cabinet.

Our activities are coming more and more to resemble those of an intelligence-gathering organization, where the raw material is subjected to careful research and analysis.

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This evening E. and I went as guests of the management to a show on the Champs Elysées called "Carnet de Notes". There are only two actors and one actress and they carry on a series of conversations with unchanged, simple scenery for about two hours. This is an Italian production and the members of the cast have strong Italian accents. It is [illegible] like performances given in the Paris Café Chantants. This particular cast has performed with tremendous success not only in Europe but in Latin America and the house is always sold out a week in advance. I must confess to considerable disappointment in view of the highly favorable reviews of these performances. It appeared to me that about half the audience was unmoved by the language and gesticulations, whilst the other half rocked with laughter.

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THURSDAY
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Graham Martin came to see me this morning. He is immensely well informed on what has gone on in various countries in connection with European unity. His interest in has been consistently great and constructive.

Mr. Prendergast of Time Magazine called on me and I went through the usual round of explaining as best I could the present status of the Saar problem, American guarantees, British association, democratic control of the Army, and many other repetitious questions which always seem to rise.

Eliot Strauss came in to ask whether there was any chance of employment here for a friend of his. I explained that we had at the present time about 15 people in this mission and did not anticipate adding to our force, certainly not until and unless the EDC had been ratified.

John Hughes and myself had lunch at the Travellers Club. He takes a keen interest in all aspects of his mission and has done a fine job in reporting on the Berlin Conference to the NATO Council. I do not envy him some of his tasks. He received word last Sunday from Washington to notify the Council at once of the U. S. Government's desire to withdraw Admiral McCormick and replace him by Jerry Wright. McCormick would leave in April but the Pentagon wanted an answer to all this on Monday. The consequence was that Ismay called a special meeting of the Council, which agreed to this proposition, but some of its members strongly expostulated against this peremptory way of handling things. The truth of the matter is, in dealing with international bodies, often the authorities at home - and this seems particularly true of the Pentagon - have no conception whatever of how to approach their allies gracefully and considerately. This particular incident is a repetition of the sort of thing that has occurred so often in the history of NATO. Because of our dominant position, our allies will probably almost always accept our decisions, unless they are entirely

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unreasonable, but it is one thing to present them courteously and another simply to say curtly what we intend to do.

I sent over to André de Staercke this afternoon the letter I had received from Foster this morning to be delivered to Van Zeeland. Foster had made an alternative draft and left it to my discretion which should be used. I selected one of them and de Staercke thought it was excellent and would please Van Zeeland on the two points he had especially mentioned, namely, the matters of atomic energy and demilitarization zones in Central Europe.

Harvey Hudson of the AP came to see me and we covered EDC rather thoroughly - past, present and future.

Phil Sprouse stopped in to say goodbye. He is a fine fellow and is going off tomorrow to replace Hugh Millard as Counsellor of the Embassy in Brussels.

We had dinner tonight at the de Waldners'. The Caraman Chimays, the Frank Giles, an English lady (Mrs. Dewar), and a young Scotchman with whom I had once shot at Euan Wallace's were there. [redacted]

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